



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

April 12, 2000

### **H.R. 3293**

**A bill to amend the law that authorized the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to authorize the placement within the site of the memorial of a plaque to honor those Vietnam veterans who died after their service in the Vietnam war, but as a direct result of that service**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on April 5, 2000*

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 3293 would have no significant impact on the federal budget. Because the bill could affect direct spending, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply. CBO estimates, however, that any such effects would be less than \$100,000 annually. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

H.R. 3293 would authorize the American Battle Monuments Commission to place within the Vietnam Veterans Memorial a plaque honoring certain veterans who died after their service in the Vietnam war. A private organization would design and construct the plaque in accordance with the Commemorative Works Act and without cost to the federal government. Under the Commemorative Works Act, any organization that receives a permit to construct a memorial in the District of Columbia or its environs must deposit an amount equal to 10 percent of the memorial's estimated construction cost in the U.S. Treasury. The funds deposited are then available without further appropriation for maintenance and preservation of the memorial.

According to the National Park Service (NPS), the Vietnam War in Memory Memorial, Inc. will finance the design and construction of the plaque. Based on information provided by the agency, CBO estimates that the federal government would receive a deposit of less than \$100,000 once the plaque has been installed. The NPS would then spend a portion of this amount each year to maintain the memorial. Based on the experience with similar commemorative projects, CBO expects that no amounts would be received or spent by the federal government for several years after the bill is enacted. In any case, the collections and spending would offset each other over time.

The CBO staff contact is Deborah Reis. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.